

**WICHITA FALLS AREA FOOD BANK
WAREHOUSE EXPANSION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Q.....Why are you trying to expand, remodel and upgrade during these economically hard times?

A...The need for hunger relief has grown beyond our capacity to serve. The Food Bank and the agencies it serves are literally the hunger safety net for North Texas. In 2008, the Food Bank distributed over 2 million pounds of food, far less than the 3.2 million pounds estimated to meet the needs of the 32,000 people living in poverty in our service area. Of those individuals, 12,000 are children. These children and their working poor families are now being joined in need by an ever-increasing number of middle-income families reeling as layoffs and unemployment force them to remake their lives. The primary challenge we face in our efforts to expand operations to meet the need is the limiting, small size of our at-capacity warehouse.

Q.....Why don't we use an existing building rather than build a new building?

A...The cost of renovating another building to include the needed equipment, such as walk-in freezer, walk-in refrigeration unit, shelving, and processing equipment would be much more expensive to do as opposed to simply adding-on to our existing plant. The board of directors studied the prospect of an addition very carefully before deciding on this plan.

Q.....Why not ask for a government grant for the expansion?

A...There is so much red-tape associated with receiving government grants that it was decided long ago not to have those restrictions but to function as has been done since 1982. Local people helping local people and not adding to the cost of government.

Q.....Is there any guarantee of getting enough extra food to need the additional space?

A...No. There are no guarantees, but with our relationship with other food banks, Feeding America, local donors, such as Sam's Club, United Supermarkets, Wal-Mart, SAFB Commissary, etc. we anticipate being able to receive much more food than was possible in the past. Truck loads of fresh fruits, vegetables and perishable products are available in increasing quantities, but can't be accepted because we lack sufficient refrigeration. Food drives and donations will still be needed. The problem we face is not where the extra food will come from, but where will we be able to properly store and distribute it.

Q.....What happens if excess money is pledged above the \$1.1 million needed?

A...Some foundations require that, if all their money is not needed, the excess is to be returned to them. Others specify that their grant only be used for "brick and mortar", "slab", etc. If this occurs, the excess money would be returned to them. After such requirements are met, other excess money would be put into a reserve account for the Food Bank to use in emergencies or other projects as determined by the Board of Directors.

Q.....How much of the money raised stays in Wichita Falls for the use of the Food Bank?

A...All of it. There are no charges being made for the fund-raising project by anyone. Neither the Coordinators or Speaker are charging anything for their services nor are any others. The expenses for postage, printing and some of the meal costs are being paid for by the Food Bank but ALL of the funds raised for the project will stay here, less any required to be returned by foundations, as explained above.

Q.....Do we get United Way Funds?

A...No. We service 12 counties in North Texas, many of them well out of the local United Way's territory.

Q.....Will there be enough employees and volunteer help to man the addition?

A...We believe so. We have a total of 10 full time employees and 6 part time employees. Our volunteer labor source is made up of community service workers, workforce center employees, individuals, churches and civic organizations. In 2008 we had a total of 783 volunteers who donated 14,084 hours.

Q.....How is the Food Bank funded and how will it sustain the increase operational cost of the expansion?

A...The ownership of the Food Bank belongs to the communities it serves. It is recognized as the "strong arm" for battling hunger relief. We believe it is our record of performance that will continue to result in on-going support as we continue to use the tools of aggressive grant writing, direct mail campaigns, and public appeals. The Food Bank has proven to be an efficient, consistent, effective method for helping to feed hungry people.

Q....Does the Food Bank Distribute food to individuals?

A..The Food Bank does not distribute food products directly to individuals and families, but to qualified partner agencies for *free* distribution to their clients. The Food Bank serves 125 agencies, such as emergency pantries, youth programs, senior citizen programs, soup kitchens, rehab centers, battered women’s and children’s shelters, halfway houses and low-income day care centers. To become a member of the Food Bank, groups must document food needs, have a 501 (c) 3 tax exempt status with the IRS and agree to conform to Food Bank distribution requirements.

Q....How does the Food Bank distribute all this food – especially the perishables – to such a large area?

A..The Food Bank is a clearinghouse that distributes food by cases. Each agency receives an inventory list, places their order, and makes an appointment for their pick-up time. The Food Bank does not make deliveries directly to agencies, except for the Kids Cafes and PowerPak 4 Kids Weekend Food Backpack Programs.

Q....How long does food stay at the Food Bank?

A..Throughout the history of the Food Bank, food received in was distributed to our partner agencies within 2-4 weeks. Rarely, is a food commodity stored more than six weeks, unless purchased in bulk for our Childhood Hunger Programs.

Q....Who are the Food Bank’s largest agencies it serves?

A.. From the 2008 Agency Activity Report, the Top 5 agencies who distributed the most food to their hungry clients in Wichita County was: Floral Heights United Methodist Church Pantry – 283,370 lbs.; Sonshine House – 53,400 lbs.; Salvation Army – 51,453 lb.; Aids Circle of Hope – 45,383 lbs.; and East Branch Food Distribution – 32,086 lbs.

Q....How much food was distributed per county by the Food Bank in 2008?

A..Archer County – 74,820; Baylor County – 16,872; Clay – 128,830; Foard County – 7,459; Hardeman County – 15,979; Haskell County – 72,979; Jack County – 95,343; Knox County – 30,085; Montague County – 181,085; Throckmorton County – 9,047; Wilbarger – 49,828; Wichita County – 1,161,094; and Young County – 153,023. Additionally, 49,822 pounds were distributed to other food banks for disaster relief.

Q....Compared to the Food Bank’s current size, how much additional space would it add?

A..The additional space will double our current size in warehouse space and offices, plus it will triple the cooler space.

Q....What happens if there is not enough funding raised for the Warehouse Expansion?

A..The Food Bank has made a determined effort to strengthen its development activities, especially in seeking the support of the communities it serves through direct mail campaigns, seeking program support, and foundation grants. The Food Bank will continue to use these tools to seek any additional funding needed to complete the Warehouse Expansion. We believe it is the Food Bank’s record of performance; the fact that the ownership of the Food Bank belongs to the communities it serves; and its recognition as the “strong arm” for battling hunger relief that will continue the on-going support needed to complete the Warehouse Expansion.

Q...Can you pledge and pay over 2 to 3 years?

A..Yes, you may pledge and pay over 2 to 3 years, but keep in mind that The Food Bank’s Board prefers to have funding for all three phases in hand prior to the start of construction. Building will commence when the funds to complete Phase One have been acquired.

Q...What are Shared Handling Fees paid by partner agencies receiving food from the Food Bank?

A.. The Food Bank does not charge its member agencies for food. Rather, the agencies contribute Shared Handling Fees to help partially offset the cost of the Food Bank's services. The function of handling fees is to allow the Food Bank and the agency to share the cost to obtain food, transport it to our warehouses and other operational costs.

Shared handling fee of 16¢ are charged to agencies for food products on a per pound basis. The needy persons receiving the food are never charged for the food. The continual maintenance of a professional quality food distribution organization costs money and shared handling fees help to defray a portion of these costs. By utilizing food and grocery products from the Food Bank, our partner agencies in 2008 saved over 3 million dollars with Shared Handling Fees of only \$204,346.